

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 7, 8, 10 and 12-20. Claims 6, 9 and 11, which the Examiner indicated contain allowable subject matter, have been substantially rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, including claim 5 on which claim 6 depended, and by rewriting claims 9 and 11 in independent form as new claims 19 and 20, respectively (including the claims on which claims 9 and 11 previously respectively depended). Accordingly, claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 have been canceled, and claims 10 and 13, which previously depended on claim 9, have been amended to depend on new claim 19. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 14-16 have also been amended to improve their form. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claim 1 was objected to on the basis of certain informalities set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the struts have interruptions in conductive -- regions of each of the at least two layers --, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objections on the basis of these informalities.

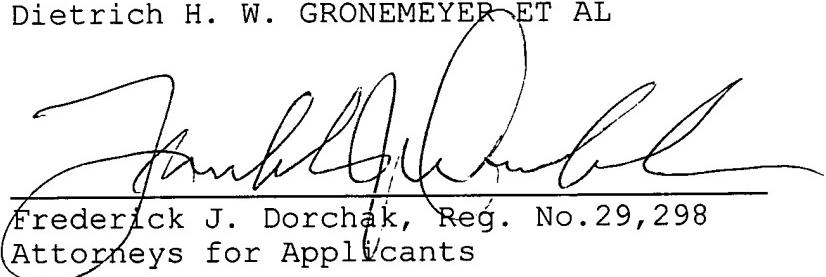
Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Weber et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0230290*. Claims 1 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Weber et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0033407*. Claims 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Weber et al. '290* in view of *Unger U.S. Patent No. 6,884,407*. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claims 6, 9-11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate substantially the subject matter of claim 6 (including claim 5 on which claim 6 previously depended), have rewritten claims 9 and 11 in independent form substantially as new claims 19 and 20, respectively (including the claims on which claims 9 and 11 previously respectively depended), have amended claims 10 and 13 to depend on new claim 19 and have canceled claims 5, 6, 9 and

11. It is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 13-16 have been amended, claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 have been canceled and new claims 19 and 20 have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Dietrich H. W. GRONEMEYER ET AL



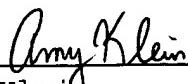
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